ELABORATIVE INTERROGATION

**Main Idea: Charles Darwin developed a theory of evolution based on natural selection.**

On page 418, read the introductory paragraph under “Developing the Theory of Natural Selection.”

* Why did the author tell you that almost everyone in the year 1831 believed that the world was about 6,000 years old?
* Why did everyone, including Darwin, believe that animals and plants were unchanging?

Read the next selection, “Darwin on the *HMS Beagle*.”

* Why did the coast of South America need to be surveyed?
* Why did the ship need a naturalist and companion for the captain?
* Why did Darwin make an extensive collection of rocks, fossils, plants and animals on this voyage?
* Why did Charles Lyell believe the Earth was millions of years old?
* Why would the author write that a book that Lyell wrote influence what Darwin thought about fossils?
* Why can earthquakes lift rocks great distances very quickly?

With a partner, read the next selection, “The Galapagos Islands.” Generate at least 5 “why” questions for this text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

With the same partner, read the final selection, “Darwin continued his studies.” Generate at least 5 “why” questions for this text.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

What do you suppose Natural Selection is about?

On page 420, read the text under “Natural Selection.”

* Why did Darwin believe that Malthus’ idea could be applied to the natural world?
* Why did this idea lead to a new framework for Darwin’s theory on the origin of species?
* Why is variation viewed as a positive asset in natural selection?
* Why will traits that favor reproductive success be favored over those that do not favor reproductive success?
* Why do the genes of an organism change over time?
* Why can’t a population of a species “just stay the way they are?” Why do they have to “evolve?”

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